

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

The Examiner has allowed claims 23-29 and rejected claims 31-35. Although we disagree with the rejection, to expedite prosecution, applicants have canceled the rejected claims. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 23-29 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-22 were previously canceled and claims 30-now 35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation and/or divisional application(s) drawn to the canceled claims.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2228. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2228. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R.  
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2228.

Respectfully submitted,

Date May 25, 2004

PATTON BOGGS LLP

Customer Number: 32042

Telephone: (703) 744-7907

Facsimile: (703) 744-8001

By Michele Van Patten Frank

Michele Van Patten Frank

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 37,028